

[Translation]

Freedom Fighter Pension

2469. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide any pension, help and facilities to the family members of the deceased unmarried freedom fighters;

(b) whether a child belonging to the family of the freedom fighter who was dependent on him for education etc. is eligible for these facilities;

(c) whether any survey of such families has been made;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the survey is likely to be conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. On the death of an unmarried freedom fighter, his/her mother, and if she is not alive, then father, becomes eligible for grant of dependent pension under the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme. They are also entitled for other related facilities provided by the Government to the dependents of the freedom fighters.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) At present no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Red Light on MP's Vehicles

2470. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Members of Parliament are entitled to affix red light on their private vehicles;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued any guidelines to the States for affixing red lights on their private vehicles;

(c) whether a proposal to make available the said facility to the Members of Parliament in near future is under consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Use of lights (including red lights) in motor vehicles is governed in accordance with Rule 108 (iii) of Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989. The use of extra lights such as red lights/blue lights on top of the vehicle is permissible to only those vehicles used by specific dignitaries as notified by the Government of India or by the State Governments. Government of India have not yet notified any such dignitaries. However, the State

Governments are notifying the lists of such dignitaries under the relevant rule.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration at present of the Government (Ministry of Surface Transport) to provide this facility to the Members of Parliament in near future.

Renaming of Railway Station

2471. SHRI KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the approval of the Ministry is required for re-naming the railway stations;

(b) if so, the guidelines in this regard;

(c) whether 'Nauger' railway station is proposed to be named as 'Sidharth Nagar' railway station; and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing guidelines contain various broad principles which are required to be kept in view by the State Governments while examining the question of change in the names villages, towns, cities etc. The guidelines, inter-alia, mention that unless there is some very special reason, it is not desirable to change a name which people have got used to; that a change should not be made on grounds of local patriotism or for linguistic reasons or for merely satisfying local sentiments.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Smuggling of RDX

2472. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned "RD\ smuggled in diplomatic bags-Threat of ethnic strife looms over North-East" appearing in the 'Sunday Observer' dated January 19-25, 1997;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to check the threat of ethnic strife?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is alert about the clandestine induction of arms and ammunition by various North-East insurgent groups.

(c) Several steps have been taken which include, inter-alia, increased vigilance along the international borders, taking-up of our security related concerns appropriately with the neighbouring countries,

strengthening of State Police Forces, induction of Central Para Military Forces and Army units, improved co-ordination of counter insurgency operations and sharing of Intelligence and review of the situation from time to time at various levels for taking appropriate decisions.

[Translation]

Investigation of Crimes through Private Detectives

2473. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme of the investigation of crimes conducted through the private detectives is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State and the Central investigative machinery has the required expertise in crime investigation. It would not also be in public interest to entrust the work of investigation of crime to private detectives.

[Translation]

Master Plan for Development of Fishery

2474. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a Master Plan for the development of fishery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Fisheries is a State subject and matters relating to preparation of Master Plans for development of Fisheries are within the purview of the State Governments. However, the Government of India provides assistance to the States and Union Territories under various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of Fisheries.

[English]

Setting-Up of Petro-Chemical Units

2475. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of proposals for setting-up

petro-chemicals units are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Funds for North Eastern States

2476. SHRI ISHWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has directed the Ministries to earmark 10% of their plan funds for the development and other related matters pertaining to the North Eastern States during the current year;

(b) if so, the extent to which the directives have been complied with by the Ministries; and

(c) if so, the details of funds so earmarked and the plans and projects undertaken therewith by the respective Ministries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Schemes for Minorities

2477. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain Schemes are being implemented for the upliftment of the minorities especially Muslims, living below the poverty line, in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) There is no scheme being implemented for minorities living below the poverty line in the country, as such. However, National Minorities Development Finance Corporation was established in September, 1994 with an authorised share capital Rs. 500 crores out of which Union Government's share comes to Rs. 125/- crores. The Corporation provides financial assistance to the sections amongst minorities whose annual family income is below double the poverty line, for setting up of self employment ventures at concessional rates of interest. The Corporation implements its scheme through the State Channelising Agencies all over the country.

The Corporation, since its inception, has disbursed Rs. 6564.99 lakhs to 13 State Channelising Agencies for 1496 beneficiaries.